



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

3251 N Highway 123 Bypass, Seguin, Texas 78155

Phone: (830) 372-1043 • Fax: (830) 372-0020 • TDD: (254) 742-9700 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

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Contact Name: Betty Soto
Telephone Number: (830) 372-1043, Ext. 4
Email: Betty.Soto@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS CEREMONIAL CHECK TO LEANING OAKS VINEYARD

AUSTIN, TEXAS, February 24, 2006—USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, today presented a ceremonial check to Leaning Oaks Vineyard for a \$49,944 Value Added Producer Grant during the 30th Annual Meeting of the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association held at the Austin Airport Hilton. The grant will serve as working capital for the Winery, located in Spring Branch, to produce commercial wines and wine grape jellies.

“USDA Rural Development promotes efforts to bring together agricultural producers and rural businesses to spur economic opportunities for rural communities” said Daniel. “During Fiscal Year 2005 Texas USDA Rural Development awarded over \$1 million in Value-Added Producer Grants.”

Since 2001 the Bush Administration has committed over \$115 million to support value-added agricultural investments, including over 110 energy-related projects. Value-Added Producer Grants may be used for planning activities, such as feasibility studies or business plans, or to provide working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects. Eligible applicants are independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures.

USDA Rural Development strives to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, call the Seguin Local Office at (830) 372-1043, Extension 4, or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.



(Left to Right) Anthony and Leatine Fasano, owners of Leaning Oaks Vineyards, JV are presented a ceremonial check for the Value Added Producers Grant by Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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